NITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of: KATUMARU, Masakazu, et al.

Group Art Unit: 3676

Serial No.: 10/727,560

Examiner: A. K. PICKARD

Filed: December 5, 2003

P.T.O. Confirmation No.: 8006

For:

COMBINED OIL RING

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT **PURSUANT TO 37 CFR 1.97(b)**

Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

July 20, 2004

Sir:

The attention of the Patent and Trademark Office is hereby directed to the documents listed on the attached Form PTO-1449. One copy of each of these documents is attached, together with a copy of a Search Report issued in corresponding European Patent Application No. 03257712.4.

No fee or certification is required in connection with this Information Disclosure Statement, since it is being submitted prior to the issuance of a first official action on the merits or expiration of the three month period following the filing date or the entry of the national stage of the abovecaptioned application.

The above information is presented so that the Patent and Trademark Office can, in the first instance, determine any materiality thereof to the claimed invention. It is respectfully requested that the information be expressly considered during the prosecution of this application, and that the documents cited in the attached Form PTO-1449 be made of record therein and appear on the first page of any patent to issue therefrom.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge our Deposit Account No. 01-2340 for any fee which is deemed by the Patent and Trademark Office to be required to effect consideration of this statement.

Respectfully submitted,

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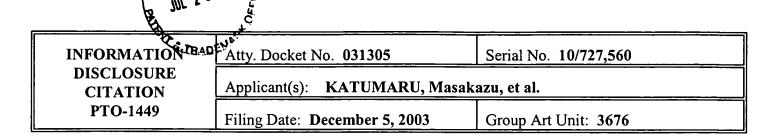
PATENT TRADEMARK OFFICE

Enclosures:

European Search Report

PTO-1449

Six (6) References



U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initial		Document No.	Name	Date	Class	Subclass	Filing Date (If appropriate)
	AA	6,039,321	Jo	3/21/00			
	AB	5,295,696	Harayama et al.	3/22/94			
	AC	2,712,971	Phillips, et al.	7/12/55			
	AD	2,657,962	Robinson	11/03/53			
	AE	2,614,899	Phillips	10/21/52			
	AF	2,511,874	Phillips	6/20/50			

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

	Document No.	Date	Country	Translation (Yes or No)
 AG				
 AH				
 AI				
 AJ				

OTHER DOCUMENTS

Examiner		Date Considered
	AL	
	AK	